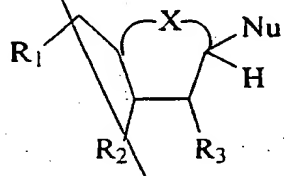
CLAIMS

1. Use, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection, of:

(a) an interferon, and

(b) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of:

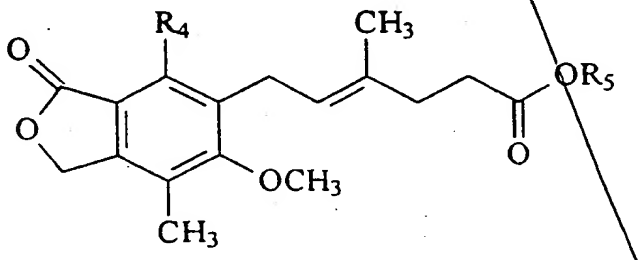
- 5-membered cyclic nucleosides having the formula (I):



(I)

wherein ⌢ X ⌢ is =CH-, $-CH_2-$ or -O-, Nu is selected from the group consisting of purines, pyrimidines and five- or six-membered aglycones, R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, O-acyl, O-aryl and O-silyl, and R_1 is as defined for R_2 and R_3 or is O-phosphate, and pharmaceutically acceptable metabolites, metabolite derivatives and salts thereof;

- mycophenolic acid compounds having the formula (II)

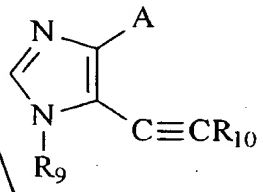


(II)

wherein R_4 is $-OR_6$ or $-N(R_7)\,R_8$ in which R_6, R_7 and R_8 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1-C_6 alkyl, and R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, phenyl and C_1-C_6 alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by a five- or six-membered saturated or

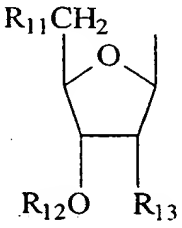
unsaturated heterocyclic ring, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

- imidazole derivatives represented by formula (III):



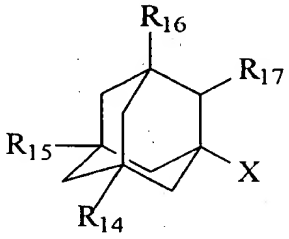
(III).

wherein R_9 is a hydrogen atom or



wherein R_{10} is a hydrogen atom, C_1-C_6 alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or phenyl, R_{11} and R_{13} are independently selected from hydrogen and OR_{12} and R_{12} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy protecting group and A is $CONH_2$ or CN, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

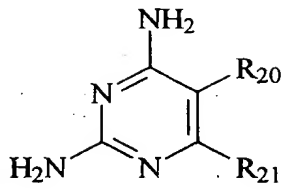
- aminoadamantanes having the formula (IV):



(IV).

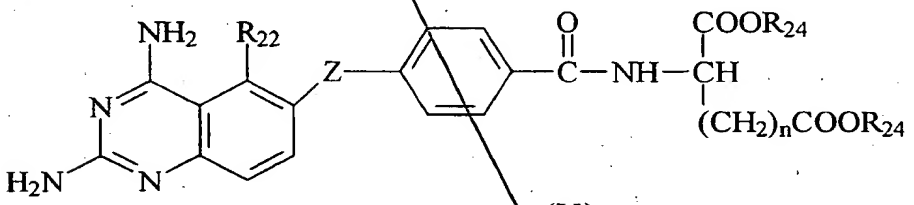
wherein each of R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{16} and R_{17} is independently selected from the group consisting of H, F and CH_3 and X is $N(R_{18})_2$, $CH_2CH_2N(R_{18})_2$ or $C(R_{19})_2N(R_{18})_2$ wherein each R_{18} and R_{19} is H, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_6-C_{10}) aryl and (C_7-C_{18}) aralkyl; and

- 2,4-diaminopyrimidines having the formula (V):



(V)

wherein R_{20} is phenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of benzyl, NO_2, (C_1-C_6) alkylamino and halogen and R_{21} is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or R_{20} and R_{21} form, together with the 2,4-diaminopyrimidine ring to which they are attached, a quinazoline derivative of formula (V'):



(V')

wherein Z is $-CH_2NR_{23}-$ or $-NR_{23}CH_2-$; R_{22}, R_{23} and R_{24} are each, independently, H or C_1-C_6 alkyl; and n is 1 or 2,and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. Use of an interferon in the manufacture of a medicament for use with at least one compound (b) as defined in claim 1 in the treatment of a flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection.

3. Use of at least one compound (b) as defined in claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for use with an interferon in the treatment of a flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection.

4. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the flavivirus is selected from yellow fever virus, kunjin virus, dengue virus, hepatitis C virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, Murray valley encephalitis virus and tick-borne encephalitis virus.

5. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the rhabdovirus is selected from vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) and rabies virus.

6. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the interferon (a) is a human interferon.

7. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the interferon is selected from interferon α2, interferon α8 and interferon β.

8. Use according to claim 7, wherein the interferon is human interferon α8 having a specific activity of from $0.6x10^9$ to $1.5x10^9$ IU per mg protein.

9. Use according to claim 7, wherein the interferon is human interferon β having a specific activity of from $4x10^8$ to $8x10^8$ per mg protein.

10. Use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the compound (b) is at least one compound selected from cyclopentenyl cytosine, mycophenolic acid, 5-ethynyl-1-β-D-ribofuranosylimidazole-4-carboxamide, amantadine hydrochloride, 3-deazaneplanocin, neplanocin A, 3-deazauridine, 6-azauridine, aristeromycin, pyrazofurin, tiazafurin, selenofurin, NSC 382046, NSC 7364, NSC 302325, NSC 184692D and NSC 382034.

11. Products containing an interferon and at least one compound (b) as defined in claim 1 as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in treating a flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection.

12. Use, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection, of an interferon α8 having a specific activity of from $0.6x10^9$ to $1.5x10^9$ IU per mg protein.

13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the flavivirus is selected from yellow fever virus, kunjin virus, dengue virus, hepatitis C virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, Murray valley encephalitis virus and tick-borne encephalitis virus.

14. Use according to claim 12, wherein the rhabdovirus is VSV.

15. Use according to claim 12, wherein the interferon α8 is human interferon α8.

16. Interferon α8 having a specific activity of from $0.6x10^9$ to $1.5x10^9$ IU per mg of protein for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy.

17. Interferon α8 according to claim 16 for use in the treatment of a

flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection.

18. Use of interferon α8 having a specific activity of from $0.6x10^9$ to $1.5x10^9$ IU per mg of protein in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection.

19. An anti-flavivirus or anti-rhabdovirus agent comprising interferon α8 having a specific activity of from $0.6x10^9$ to $1.5x10^9$ IU per mg of protein.

20. A method of treating a host having a flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection, which method comprises the step of administering to the host, in respective amounts which produce a synergistic antiflaviviral or antirhabdoviral effect, an interferon and at least one compound (b) as defined in claim 1.

21. An agent for use in the treatment of a flavivirus or rhabdovirus infection, which comprises an interferon and at least one compound (b) as defined in claim 1.

Added